WRESTLING THEN & NOW

Evan Ginzburg-Editor/Publisher P.O. Box 471 Oakland Gardens Station Flushing, NY 11364

ISSUE 30 **JULY 1992**

BOBO BRAZIL VS. SKULL MURPHY: 1960'S

BY: WAYNE ST. WAYNE

THE LISTENING POST BY: EVAN GINZBURG

Have you ever felt like crying and the tears just won't come?

As I went through my mail yesterday, I felt that excited rush I always get when the bulletin does well. New subscribers...renewals...orders for the annual...letters praising my efforts. Two and a half years after starting the sheet it's finally, to a degree, "paying off."

And then I spotted a letter which I assumed to be from a subscriber I had not heard from in several months. It was, I thought, from one of several readers that I had developed a true bond with. We had exchanged long letters about wrestling, music, film, politics and our lives in general. Although we had never met, and did not even know what each other looked like, in my heart and mind he was a friend.

Oh, he had his troubles. Some of the letters had dark, brooding passages. Yet there was always a ray of hope in them- a passion for life. Even when he told me about a suicide attempt, thanked me for my friendship, and told me he was not renewing because he was "checking out," I sincerely felt he would bounce back. I continued to send him free copies each month, with long, supportive letters. "You have so much to offer," I'd tell him over and over without response.

Thus I was so happy to see his last name on the envelope. I excitedly opened it. He had pulled himself back together I said to myself. I knew I'd hear from him one day, and was happy to have my friend "back." And then I read a letter I'd never forget.

It is with greater sadness than I can express that I must tell you that my son died on January 17.

I am grateful for the pleasure and good fellowship you and he shared.

I felt a numbness come over me and sat on my bed with my head in my hand for several moments. Then when it finally sank in, a range of emotions assaulted me. I felt an incredible sadness, and then an anger at him for committing such a cruel, wasteful, final act. Then guilt set in for not doing more. Logic told me that if a loving wife and family could not save him, certainly an editor 1,000 miles away was utterly powerless. But I'd never picked up a phone to call him-- it just wasn't my place I told myself at the time.

Out of respect for the family I am not printing my friend's name. I don't know if it's possible to write a tribute to someone who remains anonymous, but that's certainly my intent.

There is such incredible joy in putting out this newsletter; it goes far beyond honoring wrestling's history. I honestly feel that I can step foot in virtually any city and have "friends" there to greet me. The sheet, although far from flawless, evokes warm memories for many people and maybe even imparts some meaningful information and delivers a few laughs.

On this day though, I felt little but sadness. Yet the tears just wouldn't come...

READ "WACKY" IRON MIKE EINHORN IN EACH & EVERY ISSUE OF WT&N!...

IRON MIKE EINHORN- PARTY NUT JOB

(The Man Who Knows Wrestling Like The Palm Of His Hand)

The tradition continues...I'm at home now recovering from a hernia implant. I knew I was in trouble when I went to my doctor and after he told me to cough he said, "OK, now it's MY turn."

Basically right now I'm a walking time bomb. I'm pounding coffee and smoking butts.

Biblical scholars tell us that if The Mountie ever becomes WWF champ it will be the sixth sign of the Apocalypse.

My motto: nail anything that moves.

The last I heard of Gary Fishman, he was living in a trailer with runaways.

This issue of WT&N promises to be insightful and topical as usual. Hey Evan, is that a ring toss game or are you just glad to see me? How are you holding up during the Lithium shortage? Everytime he hears a ring bell, he starts howling.

New item on Domino's pizza menu- semi-boneless spaghetti: made with space-age polymers.

Time flies when you're unconscious.

I lost my last three girlfriends to witchcraft.

There should be a professional wrestling Hall of Fame & museum.

I met this women at a bar who gave me a look from across the room that you could pour on a waffle.

My early summer Christmas request: Missy Hyatt and a case of malt liquor.

The revolution will not be televised.

It's a sad and beautiful world.

In closing, remember: don't get caught between a Hard Rock & a cafe...

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LITERARY DIGEST APRIL 18 1925

THE VANQUISHER OF "STRANGLER" LEWIS

SCORNING science, the giant Nebraska wrestler Wayne Munn "springs his one and only hold," which, as we are informed, consists of grabbing his man, hoisting him over his head, and slamming him down on the floor. When "the unfortunate victim has ceased bouncing," the big Nebraskan "calmly falls on him and connects his shoulders with the mat until the referee says it's all over." In an article published by *The Open Road*, Mr. E. Waldo Long remarks:

It's extraordinary, in these days of highly developed athletics, to find a champion who hasn't won his crown by an assortment of so-called *scientific* punches, strides, holds, strokes, or whatever other methods of physical exertion his particular sport demands.

In Wayne Munn, however, we have something extraordinary beyond peradventure of a doubt. Munn, without training in the nicer points of the game, has been called "the man with a single hold." Not that he scorns science. He could probably become as scientific as the best of his opponents. But so far he has found it unnecessary.

Munn is extraordinary in another way too. He is only the second *college* man ever to win the world's championship in either of the two great physical contact sports, boxing and wrestling.

At the University of Nebraska, Munn was a football star, and he had become an automobile salesman when Gene Melady, the celebrated wrestling trainer, "discovered" him. Reading on—

People who attended his first bouts expected to laugh heartily at the big man's awkwardness, but when he had won six or seven of them in a row, their jaws hung open from astonishment rather than from humor. Tho he lacked knowledge of the science of wrestling, Munn engaged in thirty contests in fourteen months, and *won them all!* Adversaries fell like ten pins in his grizzly grip.

It wasn't long before Munn's unorthodox but effective wrestling reached such a state of efficiency that the powers that be in the wrestling world felt the time had come to match him against the champion, "Strangler" Lewis. People felt sorry for Munn, the stage appeared to be set for his exit. To be sure, he had consistently flattened other opponents, but the great "Strangler" was a bird of an entirely different feather. His specialty was a "headlock" as famous as Dempsey's "Iron Mike" and as dreaded as the plague. It got you by the neck before you realized what had happened, it squeezed and it twisted. It made you feel as limp as a rag, and it hurt too.

But Munn, led out to the slaughter, did some slaughtering himself. Tho caught in the headlock, his tremendous muscles shook him free; then, getting his one familiar neck and crotch hold he flung the astonished veteran into the air, bounced him on the floor and fell on him. Thus ended the long career of "Strangler" Lewis, who for several days thereafter "rested comfortably" in the hospital. Thus did the big Nebraskan transfer the wrestling crown to his own head, where it will probably rest securely for some time to come.

PEDRO & RON MARTINEZ:

Pedro Martinez was the long-lasting promoter for this group, though his son, Ronnie was also involved. Reports have long circulated as to how people tended to like Pedro, but hated Ronnie, a situation proven true with many father son promotions (Vince McMahon Sr. & Jr., George and Nick Gulas, The Sheik & Ed George, etc...).

BULLDOG BROWER

The chair-swinging, head-biting, roundhouse punching tank of a man was usually cheered for this group, especially when he gave other heels a taste of their own medicine. Though he couldn't have wrestled a scientific bout if it meant the end of the world, otherwise, he got over with his particular brand of mayhem. It was funny to see him here, being cheered, then booed in the old WWWF at the other side of the state, particularly during a bloody series of bouts with then champion Pedro Morales. In this neck of the woods, Brower was always loved, sort of like The Road Warriors today. He was big for his era, though only maybe 5'10") and as a roughousing thug was cheered because he faced people the fans hated even worse.

JOHNNY POWERS:

Once a big name. He endorsed health projects, ran a health spa down in Cleveland, operated a wrestling school, and was put over like a God by this group. Yet personal problems and a divorce which caused a scandal in his time, led to his downfall. He eventually dropped out of sight, emerged briefly in the south, then from there, who knows. His finishing hold was The Power Lock, a variation of the figure 4 leglock. (In 1968, he made Bulldog Brower submit, supposedly the only time ever, Brower did this).

WALDO VON ERICH

Not only was he a phony Von Erich, but also a phony German, as were most Nazis, seen in the ring from Hans Schmidt and Von Hess on. He was original at least. He had hair, close-cropped as it was. He also did aerial maneuvers which for his time, were spectacular. The Prussian Leap off the top rope or tying an opponent in the ropes, running across the ring, and catapulting on top of him were devastating. His strut and his arrogant, master race smirk could anger even the nonbelievers in the crowd. He was also one of the heels who helped bring Brower to babyface status via a series of bouts which were used not only here, but below in Ohio where other promoters picked up on the work. Some sources say his real name was Bill Shephard? No one seems to know what happened to him.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Out of the countless great villains I've seen in 20 years of watching wrestling, few drew the heat Von Erich did. In one 1974 MSG main-event he continually kicked Bruno in the head, and upon the sight of blood, the crowd grew to a riotous pitch. Bruno was TKO'd due to blood, which was common then, but a rare ending today. Sammartino attained revenge on the following show. Although he is rarely mentioned today, he was an awesome heel in his day, and perpetual main-eventer. **E.G.**).

GINZBURG'S GAB

Here's my chance to welcome you to another big issue and take care of some odds and ends while I'm at it...AWF Prez Gordon Scozzari's gotten an unfair rap in sheetdom and denies being behind Jeff Gaylord's attack on Eddie Gilbert...Harry White of 1075 McCausland, St. Louis, Mo. 63117 is offering an audio tape-interviews of 20 legends at the recent Cauliflower Alley Club's banquet, $7.50- Even though Harry didn't get me a single autograph or interview for the sheet, I highly recommend this tape and forgive him (well, almost!)...Support Sunflower State Wrestling: Gary Waugh of 310 N. Oakdale Salina, KS 67401- (913) 823-2079 is the promoter...The WT&N Back issue package (issues 1-29) is only $22.50- almost 300 pgs. of memories...WT&N's 1992 Annual- The Great Territories- is 50 pgs. featuring 100 plus clips and is $7...Next issue: Lano, Iron Mike Einhorn, Vic Stanley, Don Gene Smith on his first match memories, rare clips & another exclusive interview...Pistol Pez Whatley rips the lid off racism in wrestling in another exclusive WT&N interview coming soon...Thanks to Diane Devine for arranging the Orton. Sr. interview...The letters page returns next issue- keep 'em coming...Arizona Wrestling Promotions is being revitalized. Training programs for in-state and out-of-state wrestlers are being offered for the extremely low price of $300-$500, which is unbelievable compared to most schools which ask 2 to 3 thousand! For information contact Dale Pierce, Box 23241, Phoenix, Az. 85063- no phone calls! The group is also supposedly planning to start a GLOW type of all girl wrestling as well...If your renewals are up, please resubscribe & support wrestling's only nostalgia sheet...Thanks to John Pinzker for some of the 50's clips this issue...I recently made my stand-up comedy debut. Really!... Some recent live jams worth mentioning: Swan Silvertones & Dixie Hummingbirds (gospel at its greatest!) & Memphis R&B legend James Carr ("Pouring Water On A Drowning Man!")... Anybody have a tape of Original Sheik who recently toured Japan with Onita's group that I can borrow?..Thanks to everyone for their support of WT&N...Enjoy the rest of the issue & remember that with any luck, the indies will make a comeback... Support WIN- Wrestling Independent Network- info to be announced in WT&N...Later, gang...

Shooting at Images

(From Peoria, Ill., Star)

PEORIA, ILL.—A Peorian got so mad at a wrestling match he was watching recently on television that he whipped out a pistol and drilled a .38 caliber slug through the set.

"I guess the guy was pretty worked up," said a TV repairman, who put the set into working order.

"His favorite wrestler is Verne Gagne. Another grappler was giving Verne the works that night. He stood it for as long as he could, then shot at the ruffian by remote aim."

Luckily, the appliance's safety glass took the full impact of the bullet, which dropped harmlessly beside the cabinet. If the lead had pierced the 21-inch picture tube itself, which operates under a pressure of 1,600 pounds per square inch, the entire set would have blown up.

"The guy was bewildered over his emotional reaction," said the repairman. "It cost him $8.50 for the new pane of glass, but at least he was happy that Gagne finally won the match."

INTERNATIONAL CARD

Houston, Tex.—Quite an international flavor was on tap in a recent Houston card at the City Auditorium. Mr. Moto from Japan, Lord Carlton from England, Alo Leilani from Samoa, Rito Romero from Mexico and six American grapplers were on the program.

CLIPS FROM '53

WEARS NO OVERCOAT

They say that when Yukon Eric was in Ontario, Canada, in the wintertime, he did not wear an overcoat. It's cold there, but Yukon Eric is a warm blooded guy.

Kowalski in Syracuse

Syracuse, N.Y.—"Killer" Kowalski drew an all time record of 9,410 fans in a Syracuse show two weeks ago.

for wrestling then and now

CAC BANQUET A BLAST BY MIKE LANO

The annual experience in why we put up with crap, drugs and scandal came and went quickly March 21st at the Sportsman's Lodge in Los Angeles' Valley. Namedropper me, worked very hard with Buddy Rogers to get Johnny "Booby" Valentine's airfair picked up by Cauliflower Alley, but Johnny wasn't able to make it in the end. And in that same vein, no Titan employees-not even Fred Blassie attended for whatever reasons. Last year I pointed out Mel Phillips made the Banquet and when I asked him why he said because "Vince had told us we couldn't go..." The Mel Phillips John Arezzi, myself and others knew in the early 70's was far removed from the accusations I hear about him today. I am very sorry if this stuff is true because back then, Mel seemed like a nice guy. Now, I don't know what to think. I wonder if it's that environment up there or something that thrned Mel possibly "heel."

The Friday evening before Cauliflower Alley, many of our beloved heros checked in, and held court in various rooms and drinking establishments. Buddy Rogers and John Tolos together kept Bob Barnette, Ron Head, Jeff Benson and a jillion others transfixed with their stories of daring do. Maurice and Paul, better known as Mad Dog and Butcher Vachon elsewhere. Besides the orignal Budro and I trying to get Valentine there comped, Natch brought his former nemesis(now next door neighbor) Billy Darnell and former classique manager Bobby Davis with him, along with George Scott who had a lot to say about Flair, Crockett and others. He's definately a Rogers mark. The interviews I shot with these guys brought some great memories, and will air on Canvas Cavity. Thanks to wrestling's attorney-Bob Barnette for picking up this namedropper at L.A.X. where I immediately bumped into creative genius Bruce Pritchard-who couldn't confirm the rumour that Watts genius numero uno Eddie Gilbert had a Titan interview to replace, well, someone or something. And then the legends poured in...

From the old Eaton-LeBell Los Angeles territory- we had all the old jobbers- the Great John L., Art Mahalik, Judo Gene LeBell(who excloo'd us on Mike LeBell not having had a stroke but simple unilateral Bell's Palsy-I'll have to tell the Meltz), Jeff "looks like shit in a Tux" Walton and his son, Count Billy Varga, the Original Tokyo Tom-Great Kabuki-Rey Urbano, announcer Terry Brodt, and of course L.A.'s king o' men-John Tolos. Tolos in the next month will be breaking his lawsuit against Titan on Canvas Cavity for breaking his contract, wrongful termination, etc. Crybaby George Cannon-a heel and face for Cal Eaton, showed up scarsely 200 lbs-and with all the health problems we'd reported, no one recognized him. This classy gent brought Jerry Graham Jr.(no relation). The annual tradition of being a drunk at the bar goes to Steve Strong, Don Muraco and Mando Guerrero who were falling down drunk and yelling rude comments disrupting the awards ceremonies. Last year's winners were Victor Rivera, Chavo Guerrero and Billy Robinson(none of whom were here this night....hmmmm). The Brother's Brother's-Bruce and Tom Pritchard were hilarious- and did an impromptu "Dueling Pipers" for Canvas Cav that will knock your socks off. These two brains are nice guys too-they were taping a two hour special on Paul Boesch for Houston tv, and got guys like Rogers and Tolos to reminise about this beloved lost legend. Every bit as honest, Sam Muchnick came alone and between Harry White and Lou Thesz- we had old St. Louis covered. Thesz brought the UWF1 superstars and intro'd Takada to the crowd as well as former great heavyweight Dave Levin. Treach Phillips, Destroyer Dick Beyer, Tiger Conway Sr., Reggie Parks, Mrs. Boesch, Kenji Shibuya, Gordon Solie(you should see Gordon in an oversized t-shirt), Vachon lookalikes Jay York and Alexis Smirnoff(Michel Dubois), and so much more(sorry John Arezzi). I talked to John Studd that day and he was sorry he couldn't come, but his left knee had just had surgery-and his shoulder may soon as well. He said Don King wants to dabble in wrestling- and they'll try to do some house shows with available guys from Vince (probably like ICCW stuff) and may not touch ppvs- but not for a year. Don King is too strapped to soon to be jailed Mike Tyson now. During the ceremony, Paul Vachon opened singing a

song of courage to his brother that brought the house down. Everyone cried remembering the recent Vachon deaths, and Mad Dog's accident. Mark Lewin's old pardner- Don Curtis-Kiniski crewcut in tow was there with Sollie- bringing back wonderful Florida days. Tex McKenzie, Moolah, Cora Combs, Barbi Dahl; and the CAC award winners were: Woody Strode(who no one had seen in years-he also won the first annual Iron Mike Man of the Year Award), Penny Banner, Diamond Lil, Penny Banner, Maurice Vachon, absent Gene Kiniski, Boxing and Wrestling kingpin and nice guy Stanley Weston, Debbie Combs(who gave a very eloquent speech and discussed "girl wrestling"),Belle Star, Pepper Gomez(who has 10 gorgeous models for daughters and nieces-hey Pepper, can you spare some?!), and old Roy Shire came down at my request. He didn't get any awards, but should because he, former galpal Cora Combs, and Budro buried the hatchet after 30 years-none would speak to each other before this. Very little mention of the Titan scandal, and no Dave Meltzer who was barred out from New York and traveling. Luchadores Kurt Brown, Steve Gerber and Greg Regalado marveled at Johnny Legend's new concept- a wrestling nightclub featuring old classic moves, wrestling, games, celebs and fun. This guy never stops trying to get wrestling over- as was Verne Langdon, who worked the crowd. Lou Thesz was sensational as host and presenter of an award to the best Jr. champ ever- Danny Hodge. Showtime's Bill Harris was master of ceremonies, and he mentioned what a Cal Eaton territory mark he was- he loved Cannon, Sheik, Blassie, Varga and especially Pepper Gomez. The night before, in best name-dropping fashion, I'd helped do all the p.r.(tv, latin tv, radio and cuban radio, newspapers-even calling in the results/story to the Miami Herald for Alex since he couldn't make it) for the Miami Bart Vale-Fujiwara show. I worked 4 days nonstop to get the card over in the media, and we ended up drawing around 2300 for a great show. Roberto Duran was there, but out of shape and hadn't even started training for his April 19 bout against the group's girl's heartthrob, Masakatsu Funaki. He obliged the crowd with every possible autograph, and was a good guy. Lots of work, but a great weekend of niceties amidst the dying scandal. Dore Dequatro is working hard on a Titangate Press Conference in Massachusetts March 31, the day after Geraldo tapes the live seg of Now It Can Be Told in Massachusetts. I declined the invite to appear, since Donahue proved that less is best. I'd like to see Meltzer, Hodgson, McMahon and Bruno go at it alone, no ref. John and Dave had so much more to talk about- but with too many guests and not enough time, I thought the Donahue show killed the momentum started on King. I told Bruno to explain why he's angry-after all this kid killed the company that his dad and grandfather put toether. He's not selling abook or suiing, he's just disgusted- and people have to realize H O W important to the company the guys who quit were. Whether that momentum will be regained is anyone's guess-but I hope syndicators and non-interested realize WCW, Global and every indie has no association with any of the scandal. I also hope none of the workers realize guys like Dave want to hurt them- the goal is for the improper behavior, mores, monopoly and lies to end- not Titan or jobs for anyone-the least of which Flair. Ric and Lex just picked the short end of the straw here.

LOOKING FOR TITLE HISTORIES:

MAJOR TITLE HISTORY PROJECT TO BE ANNOUNCED

CO-EDITED BY ROYAL DUNCAN

Gary Will
55 Caroline Street North #901
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 6B9

WWF North American Title

	Ted DiBiase	
79	Pat Patterson	
79/09	REPLACED BY INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE	

WWF Intercontinental Title

79/09	Pat Patterson	(225 days approx)	
	Fictitious tournament in Rio de Janeiro		
80/04/21	Ken Patera	(231 days)	New York
80/12/08	Pedro Morales	(194 days)	New York
81/06/20	Don Muraco	(156 days)	Philadelphia
81/11/23	Pedro Morales [2]	(405 days)	New York
83/01/02	Don Muraco [2]	(374 days)	New York
84/02/11	Tito Santana	(257 days)	Boston
84/09/24	Greg Valentine	(285 days)	London, Ont.
85/07/06	Tito Santana [2]	(217 days)	Baltimore
86/02/08	Randy Savage	(414 days)	Boston
87/03/29	Ricky Steamboat	(65 days)	Detroit
87/06/02	Honky Tonk Man (Wayne Farris)	(454 days)	Buffalo
88/08/29	Ultimate Warrior	(216 days)	New York
89/04/02	Rick Rude	(148 days)	Atlantic City
89/08/28	Ultimate Warrior [2]	(216 days)	E Rutherford
90/04/01	VACANT		
	Warrior wins World Title		
90/04/23	Mr. Perfect (Curt Hennig)	(126 days)	Austin
	Defeats Tito Santana in tournament final		
90/08/27	Texas Tornado (Kerry Von Erich)	(84 days)	Philadelphia
90/11/19	Mr. Perfect [2]	(280 days)	Rochester
91/08/26	Bret Hart	(144 days)	New York
92/01/17	The Mountie (Jacques Rougeau)	(2 days)	Springfield
92/01/19	Roddy Piper		Albany

AN INTERVIEW WITH BOB ORTON, SR.
BY: EVAN GINZBURG

EG: Why did you want to become a wrestler? How and when did you break in?

BO: I wanted to travel and know all I could about everything. I contacted Jack Hader, a Kansas City local wrestler. He introduced me to the late Joe Adelman of the Kansas City, Mo. Police Dept. and finally the K.C. office booked me in Topeka, KS., Feb. of 1950.

EG: Tell us about some of the areas you wrestled in and your memories of them.

BO: Dallas and Houston in 1951 had great fans and people. Tampa, Fl. 1950 had beautiful weather, beaches, palm trees and people were the greatest. Los Angeles also had great weather and glamour- especially 1955 Muscle Beach. Frisco was also great in '51...

EG: During your career you wrestled under several names (including masked identities). Can you tell us how and why this came about?

BO: I was only "Rocky" Fitzpatrick in N.Y.- "El Diablo" in Frisco- El Lobo in Houston...Zodaik in Fla. Vince McMahon picked Fitzpatrick out of a phone book! The others were for fun...I guess...

EG: What do you feel was your greatest achievement or match during your long career?

BO: My greatest achievement was me & Buddy Rogers selling out old MSG in N.Y several months in a row & one of the largest attendance of **any** event- 20,777 people- turned 10,000 away. Greatest matches were against Sonny Myers & Lou Thesz and Eddie Graham.

EG: Bob Orton Jr. achieved great fame in wrestling as well. Did you train him and how do your feel about his great career?

BO: I taught him a lot of moves and crowd psychology- I feel great in that he was in on ground floor with Vince Jr. '1984 & had a 4 3/4 year stay. He made more money in one year than I made during my 27 years.

EG: Your other son, Barry O(rton) is presently in the news in regard to the sexual harassment allegations in the WWF. Any comments/feelings on this situation?

BO: No comment at this time. But with Berry's talent in ring and playing a guitar and singing, I don't blame him!

EG: What were your feelings about Vince McMahon Sr. and other promoters you worked for?

BO: Vince Sr. seemed all business, but did have a degree of compassion. Promoters are forced to be promoters, but some were dumber than hell- too much nepotism and favoritism and politics.

UPCOMING WT&N INTERVIEWS: ENJOY A NEW ONE EACH ISSUE: BABY DOLL, ED SHARKEY JOHN AREZZI, PISTOL PEZ WHATLEY, JOHNNY VALENTINE WITH BUDDY ROGERS, FLYING BILLY ANDERSON AND MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED EACH ISSUE!

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7/70 DALLAS

Saturday Nov. 9 1963 Boston Gar

Wrestling Program

Main Bout
For Championship of The World
Bruno **vs.** Cowboy
SAMMARTINO FITZPATRIC!

Six-Man Tag Team Match
(3 Falls out of 5)
Destroyer Steele — Spyros Arion
Baron Mikel Scicluna **vs.** Antonio Pugliese
Gorilla Monsoon — Haystack Calhour
Two Hour Time Limit

Midget Tag Team Match
(2 Falls out of 3)
Little Beaver — Little Brutus
Joey Russell **vs.** Billy The Kid

Bonus Bout
Bull Ramos vs. Louis Cerdan

Big Showdown
Big Chuck Adcox vs. Big Joe LeCreta

Plus
Johnny Rodz vs. Pete Sanchez

Plus
Arnold Skaaland vs. Lenny Solomon

First Bout at 8:30 PM

Promoter's Corner

One of the Most Dramatic Moments in Wrestling

By ABE FORD

May I, first of all, thank the many thousands of fans who attended our last great show on Oct. 12 and witnessed one of the most dramatic moments in wrestling when Bruno Sammartino retained his title by rendering George Steele, the Detroit Destroyer, unconscious with the application of his famed Bear Hug.

Next, please allow me to state that despite the 15,109 fans in the audience the World Wide Wrestling Federation (WWWF) and myself are not resting on our oars. We have another great program on tap for Saturday night, Nov. 9. We urge you to buy your tickets early. If you haven't done so already, please do so now.

Sammartino will take on Cowboy Fitzpatrick, putting his world title on the line. You'll recall that Fitzpatrick was extremely brutal in winning over Earl Lassiter. I myself thought that after he won it that should have been that. But he eluded the referee twice more and gave Lassiter a bad beating.

On Nov. 9, though, he'll be coming up against Sammartino. I wonder how many liberties he'll take. Don't get me wrong. I realize that the Cowboy is mean and vicious. It doesn't look like a breeze for Bruno by any means.

I'm proud of the six-man tag team match which is three falls out of five. Arion, Pugliese and Calhoun against Steele, Scicluna and Monsoon really looks like something! And then there's Little Beaver. There just aren't enough adjectives to describe this multi-talented Indian.

So, I'm looking forward to seeing my fans at the Garden on Saturday night, Nov. 9, for another big night.

Special Bulletin! Russian Roulette Tourney Tues.!

Match-maker Ed Watt has signed seven stars for a rare Russian Roulette style elimination tournament for next Tuesday! All seven will be in the ring at once. The two finalists then return for a best of three falls battle!

And here is the prize for the one winner — and there must be a winner — a title match against American champion Fritz Von Erich — plus $2,000 cash!

The entries are Johnny Valentine — Mr. Wrestling — The Great Malenko — Killer Kowalski — Chief Wahoo McDaniel — Mil Mascaras and Bob Orton! All in the ring at once!

A full slate of matches will augment the elimination meet and regular prices — the same you paid tonight — will prevail!

EG: Readers always like to know "Where are they now? What are you doing now that your wrestling career is over? Do you keep in touch with any other wrestling legends?

BO: I'm retired and living in a great place, Las Vegas, NV. I keep in touch with: Larry Simon, "Great Melenko"- "Treach" Phillips- John Tolos- Vic Christy- Billy Darnell- Buddy Rogers- Bobby Davis- Larry Hamilton- Sonny Myers- Billy Howard- John Thompson- Jay York.

EG: How do you feel about the changes in the business, particularly over the past decade or so?

BO: Great that it made tremendous money, but the drugs and steroids are a brain-wash; I did not know wrestlers could be so stupid as to risk bad health at mid-age, an example being Billy Graham. If you achieve any degree of popularity and monetary success, you really have to tuck it all in or someone will take you for a bath- especially lawyers and judges (corrupt as hell).

EG: Did you have a favorite tag partner? Who was it and why?

BO: Yes! Larry Simon AKA Great Malenko- he wrestled for the match- very unselfish.

EG: Any favorite "road stories"?

BO: 3 or 4 near fatal auto crashes...was very lucky to miss by the skin of our teeth!!!

EG: Did you want your sons to follow in your footsteps? How did you feel when they did?

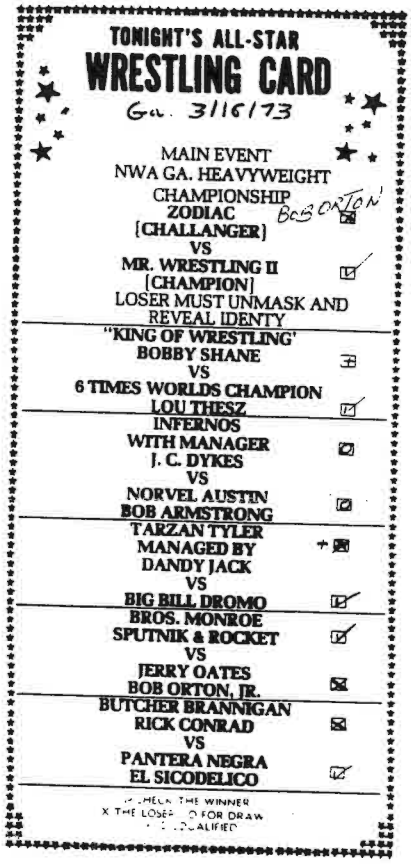
BO: No! However, Cowboy Bob Orton reaped great financial gain- Berry O gained much worldly knowledge.

EG: How do you feel about preserving wrestling history?

BO: Good- it's the greatest, even though the human body is not strong enough for any rough contact sports.

EG: Any final comments?

BO: I had a lot of fun, despite the injuries and some assholes- I met a lot of great people, wrestlers and fans, etc., saw a lot of places and got to sleep late in the morning!



THE PROGRAM

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1974 . . . 8:30 P.M.

KIEL AUDITORIUM . . . 14th & Market Sts. . . . St. Louis, Mo.

THE THIRD MAIN EVENT

A Twelve-Man Wrestle Royal

ANDRE THE GIANT, plus 11 of the wrestlers on this program, will go into the ring at once. Each man is on his own. A grappler is eliminated when he is thrown over the top rope. The sole survivor in the ring is declared the winner.

Each wrestler will post a $500 entry fee for a total of $6000 put up by the participants. The St. Louis Wrestling Club, Inc., will match that with $6000. Therefore, the winner of the Wrestle Royal will collect $12,000.

THE FIRST MAIN EVENT

Lord Alfred Hayes

240, Windermere, England

Vs.

Bruno Sammartino

W.W.W.F. Champion
265, Abruzzi, Italy

ONE FALL TO A FINISH

THE SECOND MAIN EVENT

A Texas "Death Match"

Pat O'Connor

Former World Champion
235, Wellington, N.Z.

Vs.

Harley Race

Missouri State Champion
247, Kansas City, Mo.

CONDITIONS OF A "DEATH MATCH"—Falls by any means do not count toward victory or defeat. Anything goes, although choking is banned. The winner is declared when one man concedes or, in the opinion of the referee, is unable to continue. There is no time limit, with a 30-second interval between falls. The Missouri State Championship is NOT at stake.

THE FIFTH MATCH

Dory Funk, Jr.

Former World Champion
242, Amarillo, Texas

Vs.

Bob Orton

250, Kansas City, Kan.

One fall, 20 minute time limit.

THE FOURTH MATCH

"Big Bill" Miller

270, Columbus, Ohio

Vs.

Black Angus

285, Dundee, Scotland

One fall, 20 minute time limit.

THE THIRD MATCH

Frank Valois (255, Montreal, Can.) **Vs.** **Bobo Brazil** (276, Benton Harbor, Mich.)

One fall, 20 minute time limit.

THE SECOND MATCH

Tommy Tsuruta (238, Yamanashi, Japan) **Vs.** **Billy Howard** (232, Duluth, Minn.)

One fall, 20 minute time limit.

THE OPENING BOUT

An Australian Tag Team Match

Tokyo Joe (236, Tokyo, Japan) and **The Great Kojika** (234, Saibo, Japan) **Vs.** **Reggie Parks** (234, Omaha, Nebr.) and **Billy "Red" Lyons** (238, Hamilton, Canada)

Two out of three falls, 30 minute time limit.
Two minute rest period between falls.

3/11/72

Orton Gets Chance He Wanted Against Brisco

Jack Brisco, who has had his share of main events in St. Louis, was glad to relinquish the spotlight to younger brother Jerry at Kiel Auditorium on Friday, March 17.

Although Jack will be pulling for Jerry in his battle with Von Raschke, the elder Brisco won't be sitting by idly. In fact, Jack has his work cut out for him in the third match against Bob "Big O" Orton.

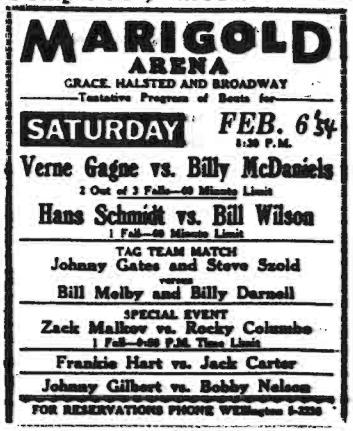
"Sam Muchnick says that he hasn't decided who will meet Dory Funk, Jr. for the World Championship on April 7," Jack said. "Well, maybe Jerry and I can both give him something to think about in our matches. We'd like to see a Brisco against Funk."

I MISS WRESTLING

by Vic Stanley

When I was a kid, I didn't know anything about the wrestling business. That's why I was able to enjoy it as much as I did. There was no cable TV, no PPVs, no VCRs, no 1-900 lines, no newsletters, no wrestling talk radio and no infernal smart fans to ruin the fantasy for me. Sure, some bullies could tease me that it was fake, but they couldn't convince me because they had no real proof. They were just saying that stuff because they were bullies. Then, as I became more adept at applying submission holds myself, they were less eager to challenge my faith in my beloved sport. There was just enough wrestling on TV for us kids to crave just a little bit more; not an overwhelming tidal wave of tedious, mediocre, meaningless matches. In the old days, the TV shows really made sense. They knew how to develop long term angles which built up unbearable tension in the viewers and always packed the big arenas like the International Amphitheater in Chicago. A simple business was not sullied by allowing the behind the scene politics to complicate matters, thus taking the fans' attention off the action, which is where it belongs. What we didn't know didn't hurt us.

Back then, it was easy to portray the heels as treacherous, despicable, conniving ne'er-do-wells without having to resort to wife beating, satanism, ritualistic murder, necrophilia and other forms of sexual depravity as they do nowadays; nor did the wrestlers have to depend upon any combination of deadly drugs to establish themselves as stars. Rats like Mitsu Arakawa, Ox Baker, King Kong Brody and Mad Dog Vachon often relied upon foreign objects like ceremonial salt, steel rods, chairs, chains, tag ropes and even their own choppers (the few that Vachon had left) to clobber their opponants and I admired them for usually being able to get away with it. Nick Bockwinkel, the most underrated champion of all time, could beat anybody cleanly, but like Ric Flair, he sometimes took the easy way out. Some called these tactics cheating or examples of poor sportsmanship, but I called it just plain smart. I learned to love these old style heels for their colorful, albeit relatively harmless antics and I cheered for them shamelessly, much to the chagrin of my friends and family. At first they thought I was dangerously disturbed, but eventually they realized that it was nothing more than an outlet for adolescent energy. True, the angles were quite grim and scary at times, but I didn't have nightmares about Mad Dog Vachon the way kids dread the Undertaker and Jake Roberts today. I never felt that the villains were hiding under my bed waiting to pounce on me if and when I fell asleep. Those were simpler, more naive times.



MARIGOLD
ARENA
GRACE, HALSTED AND BROADWAY
Tentative Program of Bouts for
SATURDAY FEB. 6 '54
8:30 P.M.
Verne Gagne vs. Billy McDaniels
2 Out of 3 Falls—60 Minute Limit
Hans Schmidt vs. Bill Wilson
1 Fall—60 Minute Limit
TAG TEAM MATCH
Johnny Gates and Steve Szold
versus
Bill Melby and Billy Darnell
SPECIAL EVENT
Zack Malkov vs. Rocky Columbo
1 Fall—0:00 P.M. Time Limit
Frankie Hart vs. Jack Carter
Johnny Gilbert vs. Bobby Nelson
FOR RESERVATIONS PHONE WEBster 8-2256

RESULTS

CHICAGO—RAINBO ARENA—1-20-54—Ray Eckert and Walter Palmer drew; Chest Bernard beat Dave Sims; Al Kashey defeated Chris Belkas; Marco Polo lost to George Bollas; in a tag team match, Guy Brunetti and Joe Pankora defeated Chris Zaharias and Verne Taft.

CHICAGO—MARIGOLD ARENA—1-23-54—Argentina Rocca defeated Joe Christie; in a tag match Jim Siskay and Bob DeMarco lost to Art Neilsen and Reggie Lisowski; Jack Witzig beat Rocky Gallup; Farmer Jones defeated Paul DeGalles; Farmer Marlin downed Ned Taylor and Zack Malkov beat Don Claus.

Chicago, Ill.
9/12/64

Wrestling Show Returns Saturday To Amphitheatre

The first wrestling program in Chicago since May will be staged next Saturday in the International Amphitheatre.

The two main events consist of Dick the Bruiser vs. Pat O'Connor and Golden Moose Cholak vs. Wilbur Snyder.

The remainder of the card has The Mongol, who has not appeared here for two years, against Joe Brunetti; Johnny King against Bobby Managoff, and The Great Hercules against Alonzo Parenti.

In a tag match, Angelo Poffo of Downers Grove and the bearded Russian heavyweight Nicoli Volkoff clash with Dennis Hall and Roger Kirby, a pair of Hoosier heavyweights.

Dick the Bruiser and O'Connor met last May and both were disqualified.

It is much more difficult to play a convincing heel than it is a babyface. Most up and coming wrestlers are brought into the sport as faces. That's because, despite their inherent skills, they have not yet developed their ring philosophies and personalities. It's easier to be a good guy. All they require to get over is a chant of "USA USA!" A heel requires greater acting skills because he plays to the crowd more. The fan favorites in the AWA were sometimes successful in driving the villains out of wrestling (meaning that they had received a better offer in another territory like the WWWF), but what would wrestling have done without the bad guys? Although I admired the athletic skills of wrestlers like AWA champion Verne Gagne, Billy Robinson or the late, great Wilbur Snyder - the World's Most Scientific Wrestler, they were nothing without their evil nemeses who were and still are the true heart and spirit of the sport. Who would pay to see Greg Gagne shake hands with Jumpin' Jim Brunzell, wrestle him to a scientific time limit draw, then shake his hand again? If I had to choose, I would rather watch all heels wrestling each other than all babyfaces.

Then there were those who transcended the boundaries of good and bad, whose credo was "Iyam wud Iyam an dats all dat Iyam!" and we loved them for it. Dick the Bruiser and his cousin the Crusher were two burly, beer swilling, stogie chomping, polka partying roughnecks who did it their own way and epitomized the blue collar hero who worked hard and played harder. Although the Bruiser established his reputation as a dastardly superheel, by the time I was introduced to him, he was like a big, lovable uncle to me. As long as I knew them, Bruiser and Crusher never picked on those less capable than they, nor did they back down when it came time to defend themselves. This is a simple message of proper conduct which the kids of today don't hear. Nowadays, the heroes handcuff their opponants to the ropes and beat them unconscious with nightsticks. Fine role models.

Wrestling can never be restored to its past simple glories. The world has gotten too sophisticated. In the vampire movies of the 30s and 40s, the viewers were horrified by the mere suggestion of a bite to the throat. It wasn't necessary to graphically depict it in all its bloody glory. Today, the viewer expects nothing less than gallons of crimson arterial plasma spurting from ragged, gaping wounds like a Harlem fire hydrant in August. The same applies to wrestling. We're all just a bit jaded these days. All we can do is view wrestling through the eyes of the children and hope that they can enjoy it the way we used to. But it will never be the same.

Our beloved editor Evan Ginzburg is certainly doing his part to keep these fond memories of past glory alive in the hearts, minds and spirits of fans both young and old. Where else could a rambling, nostalgic piece such as this find such an appropriate forum? Thanks Evan! You'll never be a convincing heel, but you're still OK in my book!

RESULTS

CHICAGO — INTERNATIONAL AMPHITHEATRE—1-15-54 — Hans Schmidt defeated Ray Gunkel as both wrestlers fell from the ring and Schmidt climbed back in time; "Killer" Kowalski beat Yukon Eric; Pat O'Connor tossed Ivan Rasputin; in a tag match Larry Chene and Billy Goelz won by disqualification over Art Neilsen and The Sheik of Araby; Sky-Hi-Lee beat Bobby Nelson.

CHICAGO—MARIGOLD ARENA—1-16-54—Argentina Rocca defeated The Zebra Kid (Lenny Montana) in two straight falls; Yukon Eric pinned Zack Malkov with a bear hug; Sky-Hi-Lee beat Jack Carter with a skull crusher; Gypsy Joe and The Sheik of Araby defended their midwest junior heavyweight tag title beating Elnar Olsen and Jerry Woods; Farmer Jones beat Duke De Metri and Paul De Galles beat Mel Dove.

CHICAGO—RAINBO ARENA—1-13-54—Ray Eckert beat Jim Wright; Walter Palmer defeated Joe Millich; Al Kashey won from Red Kirkpatrick; John Arjen drew with Merrill Lassen; Guy Brunetti pinned Tony Steele and George Bolas beat Bob Weaver.

Jerry Jarrett: The Early Days

Jerry Jarrett, longtime Memphis area promoter and father of wrestler Jeff Jarrett, was once himself a top wrestling star in the Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky areas working for legendary promoter Nick Gulas. The early 70's saw Jarrett make quite a name for himself in wrestling, and he was an extremely popular grappler. His good looks, charisma, and dogged determination won Jarrett a legion of loyal fans.

Jarrett wasn't a big wrestler, usually around the 200 lb. weight, but he was a tough battler and fought many opponents much larger than himself. Because of his size and because tag team matches were so popular in Promoter Nick Gulas's area back in the 70's, Jarrett was mostly well known as a tag team partner of veteran grapplers Tojo Yamamoto and Jackie Fargo. Though Tojo was Jarrett's main regular partner. The unlikely duo of Tojo and Jarrett were big fan favorites and they won the area tag team belts on more than one occasion.

I remember seeing Jarrett in many wild battles and long term feuds. Some of the teams that Jerry wrestled against were Don and Al Green with manager Sir Clements, the masked Interns with manager Dr. Ken Ramey, Big Bad John and Pepa Lopez, the Fabulous Kangaroos (Al Costello and Don Kent), Jerry Lawler and Jim White with manager Sam Bass, and Kurt and Karl Van Brauner with manager Saul Weingeroff. Those are just a few of the teams that Jarrett, with either Tojo or Fargo faced in tag team competition.

Though mainly in the early 70's Jarrett was a tag team wrestler, he did get involved in a couple of feuds with two particular grapplers, that produced some great action packed single bouts. Jerry's two arch-rivals were veterans, "Mean" Don Greene and brash newcomer Jerry Lawler.

In Louisville, Ky. (around 1971- 72, not sure which year), Jarrett met Don Greene in one of the first scaffold bouts in wrestling. It was a rough and dangerous bout, and Jarrett won, with Greene suffering a broken right wrist in his fall to the ring.

The mid 70's saw Jarrett clash many times with the rising star Jerry Lawler. Their battles around the south see-sawed back and forth, but in the end "King" Jerry Lawler proved to be the tougher of the two, and Jarrett ended up losing more bouts than he won with Lawler.

It wasn't long after that feud that Jarrett got out of the ring as an active competitor, and joined the ranks as a wrestling promoter, competing against his own former boss, promoter Nick Gulas. In the end, Jarrett took over many of Gulas's former cities and Jerry proved to be a successful businessman. In an ironic move, promoter Jarrett wisely used his former in ring enemy Jerry Lawler to become the top draw for Jarrett Promotions. Most of today's fans know Jarrett as just a promoter, but the early and mid 70's saw Jerry Jarrett prove that he was a star IN the ring also.

Story by David Williamson

BULL MONTANA